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APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE		ILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Fletcher L. Chapin	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO. 8236		
10/043,662	10/043,662 01/09/2002			END920010017US1			
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3 E-COMM ALBANY, 1				HUYNH, LOUIS K			
				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
				3721			

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.   Application (ChAPINET ALL   Examiner				MAF				
Examiner   Louis K. Huynh   3721     The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address   Period for Reply   A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE £ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.   Entersorm of time rays be available under the provisions of 37 CPR 1.136(p.) In no event, however, may a reply be timely filled   11 the period for reply specified above. Per maintrin statistics previous via period will apply and via equive SX (0) MCNTHS from the mailting date of this communication.   11 NO period for reply specified above. Per maintrin statistics previous via period will apply and via equive SX (0) MCNTHS from the mailting date of this communication.   12 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin statistics previous via period via equive SX (0) MCNTHS from the mailting date of this communication.   13 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin statistics previous via period via equive SX (0) MCNTHS from the mailting date of this communication.   13 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of this communication.   14 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of this communication.   14 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   14 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   15 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   15 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   15 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   15 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   15 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   15 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   15 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   15 Period for reply specified above. Per maintrin date of the communication.   15 Period for reply specified abov		Application No.	Applicant(s)	11/1				
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## **DETAILED ACTION**

## Election/Restrictions

- 1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a chute, classified in class 414, subclass 799.
  - II. Claims 11-14, drawn to a method of orienting a part, classified in class 53, subclass 447.
  - III. Claims 15-20, drawn to a container for a plurality of flexible circuits, classified in class 206, subclass 756.
- 2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and (I & III) are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus such as one having means for flowing air to pass parts through the duct.

Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as guiding the parts through the duct to obtain similar orientation of the parts, and invention III has separate utility such as for containing a plurality of stacked flexible circuits. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, the search required for one

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group is not required for other groups, and because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

- 4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).
- 5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).
- 6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is (703) 306-5694. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on (703) 308-2187. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

LH February 25, 2003 JOHN SIPOS RIMARY FXAMINE